



CITY HALL PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PAT Meeting

Monday, October 10, 2005, 3:00 – 4:30 PM
Smith Tower, 500 2nd Avenue

NOTES

Present

Present: Peggy Dreisenger, Laura Inveen, Neil Lukas, Tamara Menteer, Craig Montgomery, Bud Parker, Al Poole, Jordan Royer

Staff and Consultants: Cheryl Fraser (Chair), David Goldberg, Jerry Ernst, Theresa Nalon

Other: Linda Ridge

Public Comment

- None

Summary of Last Meeting and Workshop, *Cheryl Fraser*

- Cheryl summarized comments from the meeting and the park evaluation forms that were completed. (Notes were attached to the agenda.)

Park Programming, *David Goldberg*

Proposed Draft Vision - David G. summarized the proposed vision and asked for comments and PAT endorsement. The PAT indicated general support for the vision.

- ♦ Craig M. has been hearing from Pioneer Square constituents that they are questioning why we're proceeding with physical improvements when the City hasn't addressed management and public safety concerns.
- ♦ Jordan R. commented that a dramatic shift is needed in the park that can't be accomplished by only addressing public safety and/or issues. They're too big; the City needs to create a place that is inviting to a broad range of peoples, and that requires a mix of physical improvements and management.

Short and long term actions – David G. summarized the approach of articulating long and short term improvements. David asked the PAT to give their feedback on this approach and the specific recommendations.

- ♦ Neil L. likes the short and long-term approach, but the designer should create the long-term vision and work from there to create a plan for short-term improvements that are compatible with the long-term ones.
- ♦ Jordan R. The grass needs to be addressed in the first phase in order to provide areas for activities, otherwise people will continue to stake out their daytime "camps." The Mayor will expect bold steps to create a successful park.
- ♦ Bud P. Agrees with addressing the grass, and suggested that we need to look at removing some of the small trees. Likes to two phases and suggested that the long term vision include a lot more hardscape with terracing to accommodate the slope.
- ♦ Tamara M. The short-term doesn't appear to address the security need. Can't we include the need for a foot patrol in our vision.
- ♦ Jordan R. There are competing needs for patrols all around the City. Need to also think about how making improvements that increase use can work to improve security.
- ♦ David G. Asked for clarification about the PAT's support for a park oriented to nearby workers and residents versus a downtown attraction. He pointed out that Occidental Square Park was already playing that role in Pioneer Square.
- ♦ Laura I. Suggested that we don't necessarily need to host events like movies and concerts but rather focus on things that provide daily interest like chess tables and basketball that would be desirable to nearby workers and residents.

- ♦ Neil L. Confirmed that these self programming ideas should be the focus. Questioned if we're wasting time thinking about larger programming ideas when the key is eliminating illegal activity and ensuring appropriate park behavior.
- ♦ Al P. Is in favor of a "passive park" like described by Laura and Neil, but the current design with the large grass area acts as a campground. It's attractive for those who want to camp out there, but offers nothing to others who might go to the park for lunch. Short-term improvements are important in sending a message that the City is serious about improving the park and will help build community ownership in the project.
- ♦ Tamara M. Need to communicate that we're building community, not kicking out the homeless who are currently the sole users of the park. We could be sensitive to the needs of homeless and consider things like an "Outsider Art" event that promotes display of art by persons who are mentally ill, homeless or "outside" of the mainstream. Could also commit to hiring gardeners who are transitioning from homelessness.
- ♦ Bud P. Requested clarification about the PAT's attitude towards the existing behaviors such as sleeping/camping out during the daytime, and how "being sensitive to the needs of homeless" relates to addressing. Many people who would go to the park feel threatened or put off by these behaviors.
- ♦ Peggy D. Mentioned that the Downtown Park Task Force is looking at code of conduct for downtown parks.
- ♦ Cheryl F. Reminded people that many of the activities people are uncomfortable with, sleeping during the day are legal.
- ♦ Jordan R. Provided the example about how posting rules at Cal Anderson Park has enabled cops to better police the space – even when there wasn't a code violation.
- ♦ Several PAT members expressed support for more clearly defining unacceptable activity in the park.
- ♦ Jordan R. Pointed out that at Pike Place Market, homeless and mentally ill mingle with tourist. When there is a mix of people the presence of people sleeping is less uncomfortable.
- ♦ David G. Will try to summarize what he has heard people state as undesirable activity so that that PAT can more clearly express what behaviors they want to change.
- ♦ David offered the following summary:
 - The PAT endorsed the Vision
 - A strong schematic design for the desired full development is necessary.
 - The PAT recommends proceeding with developing short-term actions that are coordinated with the long term.

Users' Questionnaire

- ♦ David summarized the content of a questionnaire the Parks intends to distribute to adjacent residents and workers to raise awareness about the project and to get feedback on programming ideas.

Next Steps

- November 7 PAT meeting to review initial schematic design options.